A NEWSPAPER LINKS 'PLOT' FIGURE TO C.I.A.

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NEW ORLEANS, April 25 (AP)—The New Orleans States Item said Tuesday in a copyrighted story there was mounting evidence of Central Intelligence Agency links in District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

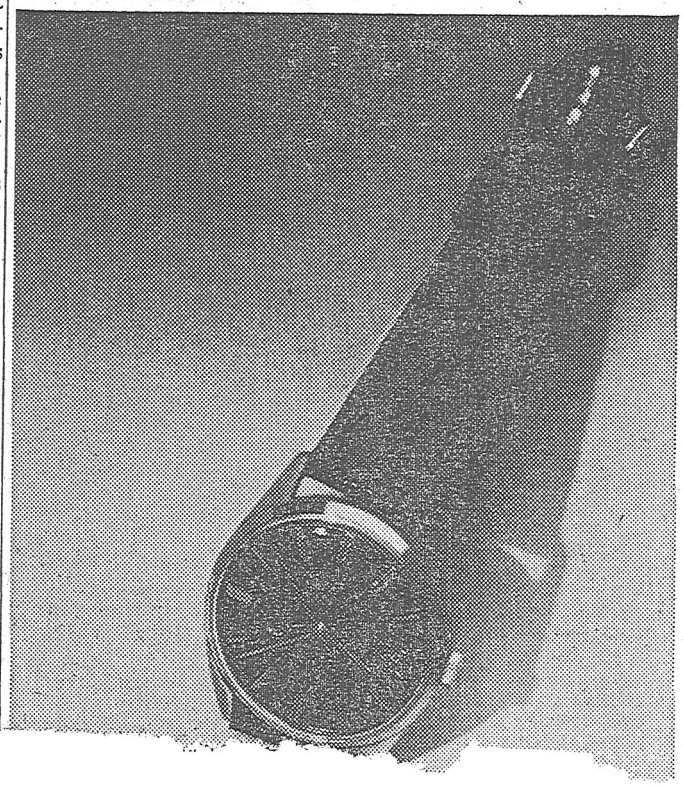
"At least one Garrison probe figure intends to use C.I.A. connections as part of his defense," the newspaper said.

The story said "still others linked to the Garrison investigation have been named as acting for the super-secret espionage organization—as informers, as couriers and munitions carriers."

Gordon Novel, the 29-year-old former bar owner in the French Quarter, who is fighting extradition from Ohio to Louisiana, was named as having the strongest ties to the intelligence agency.

The newspaper said Mr. Novel had told intimates "he was a C.I.A. operative and will use this role to battle Garrison's charges."

Mr. Novel is free on $10,000 bond in Columbus, Ohio, after his arrest on a Louisiana warrant that he helped plan the burglary of an oilfield explosive bunker near Houma in 1941.

He has referred to the alleged bunker burglary as "the most patriotic burglary in history," according to the paper. He has told associates, the newspaper said, that the munitions burglary was "a war materials pickup made at the direction of his C.I.A. contact."

OMAHA, April 25 (UPI)—A fugitive from justice complaint—filed against Mrs. Lillie McMaines in the New Orleans investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, was dismissed in Municipal Court Tuesday after she refused to leave Iowa to appear in court.